

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2003-251-G - ORDER NO. 2003-689
DECEMBER 1, 2003

IN RE: Application of Piedmont Natural Gas) ORDER GRANTING ✓DL
Company for Approval of Modified Demand) EXTENSION OF
Cost Allocation Factor.) VARIOUS PREFILING
) DATES FOR
) TESTIMONY AND
) RESCHEDULING
) HEARING

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") on the request of Piedmont Natural Gas Company ("Piedmont" or the "Company") for an extension of time within which Piedmont is required to file the Company's direct testimony regarding Piedmont's Application for approval of a prospective modification of the demand gas cost allocation factor applicable to Piedmont's operations in South Carolina. This matter was addressed by the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 25, 2003.

Subsequent to Piedmont's Application being filed, the Commission scheduled a hearing on this matter for December 10, 2003, and issued Order No. 2003-653 which established prefiling deadlines for the instant docket. Order No. 2003-653 directed Piedmont to prefile the Company's testimony and exhibits on or before November 12, 2003.

On November 12, 2003, Piedmont, through its counsel, filed a request for a two day extension of the time in which the Company would file its direct testimony and exhibits. According to Piedmont's counsel, several critical Piedmont personnel had

pressing commitments which prohibited the Company from completing its direct testimony by the due date of November 12, 2003; therefore, Piedmont requested an extension until November 14, 2003, to file its direct testimony and exhibits. Thereafter, on November 14, 2003, Piedmont filed the Company's direct testimony and exhibits.

Supplemental correspondence by Piedmont's counsel was filed November 19, 2003, advising the Commission that Piedmont had discussed the Company's pending request for an extension with the Commission's Staff, who will be presenting testimony in this proceeding, and that the Commission's Staff did not object to Piedmont's request. However, according to Piedmont's counsel, the Commission's Staff did indicate that a similar extension of the prefile date by which the Commission Staff and Intervenors are to file testimony and exhibits would be helpful. For that reason, Piedmont supplements its prior extension request to propose new prefile dates for the submission of Commission Staff's and Intervenors' testimony and exhibits and of Piedmont's rebuttal testimony. Piedmont proposes a date of December 1, 2003, for Commission Staff and Intervenors to prefile their testimony and exhibits and a date of December 4, 2003, for Piedmont's rebuttal testimony. According to Piedmont, no change is requested for the date of filing surrebuttal testimony or the date of the hearing. Piedmont states further that counsel for the Company has conferred with the Commission Staff's counsel and with counsel for the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, an intervenor in the present proceeding, and advises that neither party has any objections to Piedmont's request.

Upon consideration of the request of Piedmont, the Commission finds sufficient cause to grant modification to the prefile dates. No party has voiced objection to

Piedmont's request for modification, and the Commission finds that no party will be prejudiced by modification of the prefile dates.

However, the Commission is now aware of a conflict in the Commission's schedule with the hearing date of December 10, 2003. Accordingly, the Commission must reschedule the hearing date. The Commission therefore will reschedule the hearing for **January 22, 2004, at 10:30 a.m.** As the hearing date must be rescheduled, the Commission will set a new date for the prefiling of the direct testimony of the Commission Staff and Intervenors of **January 8, 2004**. Further, as a result of the new hearing date, the Commission hereby establishes **January 15, 2004**, as the prefile date by which Piedmont must file any rebuttal testimony and exhibits and **January 19, 2004**, as the prefile date by which the Commission Staff or Intervenors must file surrebuttal testimony. All other requirements concerning the prefiling of testimony, such as the number of copies, service on the parties, and whether the testimony must be postmarked or in hand on the specified dates, remain as set forth in Order No. 2003-653 and are unchanged by this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The scheduling order for filing testimony and exhibits as set out by Order No. 2003-653, dated October 28, 2003, is hereby modified.
2. Piedmont is granted a two day extension in which to file its direct testimony and exhibits.
3. The Commission Staff and Intervenors shall prefile their direct testimony and exhibits by **January 8, 2004**; Piedmont shall prefile any rebuttal testimony and

exhibits by **January 15, 2004**; and the Commission Staff and Intervenors shall prefile any surrebuttal testimony and exhibits by **January 19, 2004**.

4. All other requirements for the prefilings of testimony set forth in Order No. 2003-653, such as the number of copies to be filed, service on other parties, whether testimony and exhibits must be postmarked or in hand by a given date, etc., remain unchanged and in effect.

5. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:



Bruce F. Duke, Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)